

**PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

**FIRST ANNUAL MEETING**

OF THE

**BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**

OF

***NORTH CAROLINA;***

HELD AT

**ROGERS' CROSS ROAD MEETING HOUSE,**

***WAKE COUNTY,***

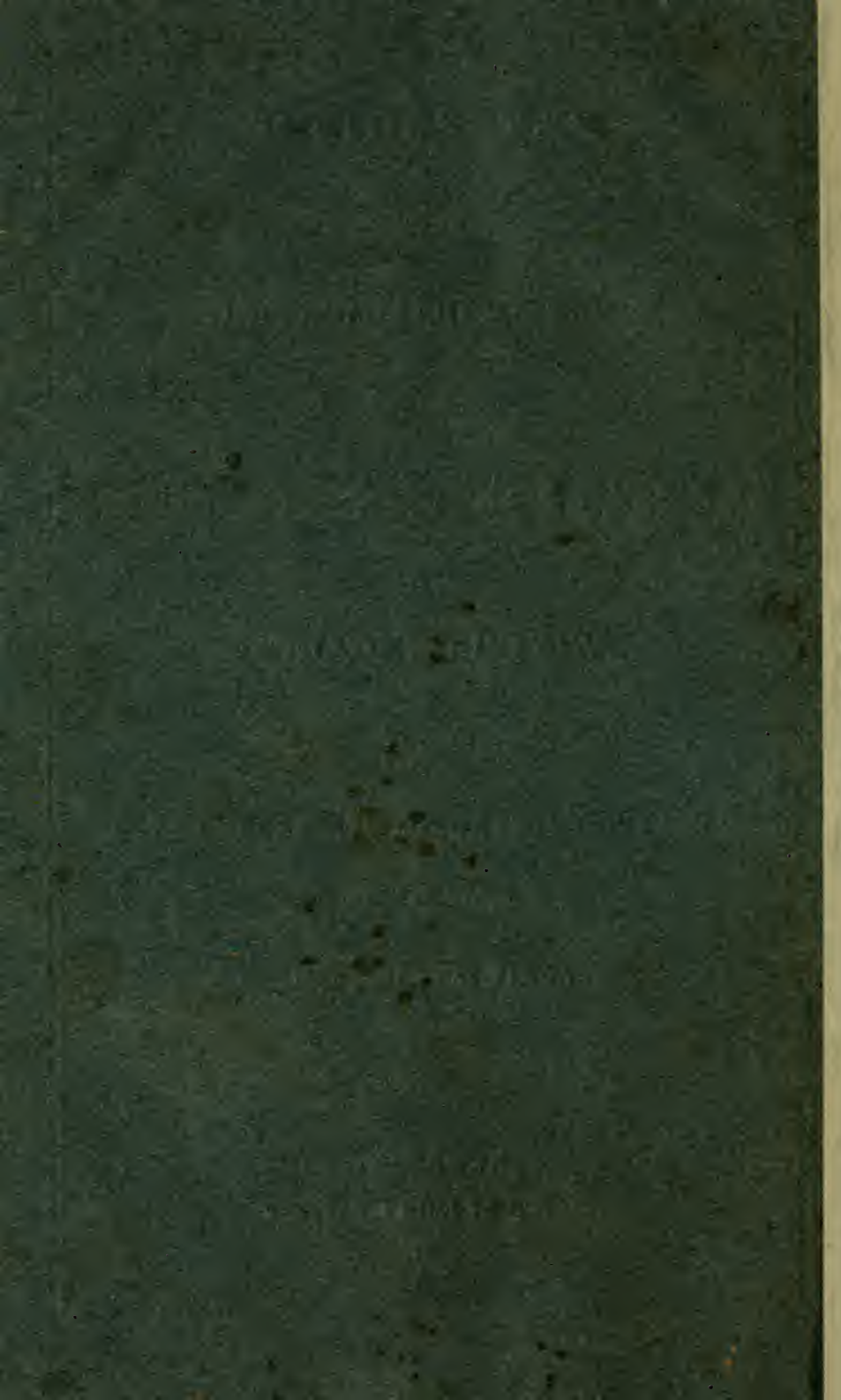
**APRIL 15th—18th, 1831.**



**NEWBERN:**

**PRINTED BY JOHN I. PASTEUR.**

**1831.**



508  
175  
925

PROCEEDINGS 75/1000

75  
250  
225  
25

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

75  
19

OF THE

150  
75  
900

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

OF

NORTH CAROLINA;

75  
16

HELD AT

450  
75  
1200

ROGERS' CROSS ROADS MEETING HOUSE,

WAKE COUNTY,

APRIL 15th—18th, 1831.



NEWBERN:

PRINTED BY JOHN I. PASTEUR,

1831.



# PROCEEDINGS.



ACCORDING to appointment, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. ARMSTRONG, from Isaiah v. chap. first six verses.

After which, the Convention was organized, Elder P. W. DOWD, President, taking the Chair; Bro. NATHL. G. SMITH was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*

Prayer by Elder WARREN.

On motion, Breth. HINTON, JONES, MOORE, McALLISTER, BURROUGHS, HUCKABEE, and LAWRENCE, were appointed a Committee to receive the Letters and money from the Delegates of the Auxiliary Societies.

Letters, contributions, and Delegates, were received from the following Auxiliary Societies:

COUNTIES.	SOCIETIES.	DELEGATES.
<i>Wake.</i>	Raleigh Female Benevolent Soc	P. W. Dowd.
"	Cross Roads Church.	John Purify.
"	Bethel Female.	William King.
<i>Cumberland.</i>	Cape Fear Female.	Charles McAllister, Samuel Mimms.
"	Cape Fear Association.	Job Goodman.
<i>Davidson.</i>	Jersey Settlement.	William Dowd.
"	Pine Grove.	Isaiah Spurgin.
"	Lick Creek Church and Soc.	Eli Carroll.
"	Liberty Church and Soc.	Peter Owen.
<i>Orange.</i>	Sandy Field.	Grey Huckabee.
"	Antioch	Isaac Durham.
"	Cane Creek.	Stephen Justus.
<i>Stokes.</i>	New Friendship.	Letter by William Dowd.
<i>Pitt.</i>	Swift Creek.	William P. Biddle,
<i>Craven.</i>	Fort Barnwell.	Samuel Simpson.*
"	Newbern.	John Armstrong.
<i>Lenoir.</i>	South West.	J. Waters,* W. Loftin,* W. Rhem, and D. Jones.
<i>Edgecomb.</i>	Tarborough.	P. P. Lawrence, H. Austin, A. J. Battle
<i>Carleret.</i>	Jarrat's Bay.	J. L. Warren.
<i>Chatham.</i>	Mount Pisgah.	Henry Williams.
"	Rocky Spring.	Stephen Moore, Willie B. Straughan.
"	Tick Creek.	Nathaniel G. Smith.
"	Love's Creek.	Elisha Siler.
"	Mount Gilead.	Thomas D. Armstrong.
"	Mays Chapel.	John Burns.
"	Fall Creek.	Bryan Burroughs.
<i>Moore.</i>	Friendship.	Eli Phillips.
<i>Montgomery.</i>	Bethlehem.	Noah Richardson.
"	Cross Roads.	Letter by do.
<i>Anson.</i>	Deep Creek.	Joel Gulley, Thomas Gaddy.
"	Miltonville.	James Gordon, Jesse Lewellen.
"	Rocky River.	John Culpepper, John C. Culpepper.*
<i>Richmond.</i>	Carledge Creek.	Robert S. Thomas.
<i>Anson.</i>	edar Creek.	John Pearson.
"	Brown Creek.	Letter by Elder Culpepper.
<i>Richmond.</i>	Saron.	Alexander M. Nicholson.

\* Absent.

Ministering Brethren were invited to take seats with us, Elders LOWELL, BURCH, McDANIEL, WAIT, DENNIS, and WELCH, accepted the invitation.

On motion, the names of the Delegates were called over.

On motion, a Committee, consisting of four, were appointed to arrange the business of the Convention, and report to-morrow. Elders BIDDLE, WAIT, T. D. ARMSTRONG, and RICHARDSON, Committee.

On motion, a Committee of seven were appointed to supply the pulpit with preachers during the session of the Convention. Brethren AUSTIN, LAWRENCE, BURROUGHS, HINTON, McALLISTER, OWEN, and JONES, Com.

On motion, a Committee of three were appointed to collect and examine the transactions of the Board, with all their proceedings, and report to the Convention. Brethren BIDDLE, AUSTIN, ARMSTRONG, Committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow half past 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder T. D. ARMSTRONG.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 16th.

Met according to adjournment:—Prayer by Elder WAIT.

Several more Delegates appeared and took their seats.

Names of the Delegates called over.

Committee of Arrangements reported, report accepted, and committee discharged.

On motion, a Committee of five were appointed to inquire into the Missionary operations of the last year, and make arrangements for the ensuing year. Brethren BIDDLE, PURIFY, CULPEPPER, T. D. ARMSTRONG, and McALLISTER, Committee.

Leave of absence granted to Elder GOODMAN from and after to-day.

Elder WAIT, Gen. Agent, reported—report being unfinished, further time given to complete it, with a reference to a committee to report on Monday. Brethren J. ARMSTRONG, A. J. BATTLE, and THOMAS, Com.

Brethren J. ARMSTRONG, N. G. SMITH, and W. R. HINTON, were appointed a Committee on Education.

The Committee on Finance were directed to audit the Treasurer's account.

*Resolved*, That the tenth Article of the Constitution be amended so as to read, "The Convention shall hold its meetings annually, commencing Friday preceding the first Lord's day in August, at such places as it shall from time to time direct."

*Resolved*, That the word semi-annually be substituted, for the word "quarterly," in the eighth Article of the Constitution.

*Resolved*, That the next annual meeting of this Convention, be held at Tick Creek, Chatham County, Elder BIDDLE to preach the introductory sermon—Elder CULPEPPER his alternate. Elder J. ARMSTRONG to preach on the Sabbath, in behalf of the society—Elder WM. DOWD his alternate.

Elder P. W. DOWD was appointed to prepare a circular to be appended to the next Minutes.

Proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

Elder P. W. DOWD, *President*.

Elder W. P. BIDDLE,

" WM. DOWD,

Bro. McALLISTER,

} *Vice Presidents.*

Elder JOHN ARMSTRONG, Corresponding Secretary.

BRO. N. G. SMITH, Recording Secretary.

“ HENRY AUSTIN, Treasurer.

### BOARD OF MANAGERS.

J. CULPEPPER, W. R. HINTON, PETER P. LAWRENCE, A. J. BATTLE, N. RICHARDSON, JOEL GULLEDGE, D. JONES, J. McDANIEL, R. S. THOMAS, T. D. ARMSTRONG, J. PURIFY, J. L. WARREN, BRYAN BURROUGHS, SAM'L. MIMMS, GREY HUCKABEE, ELI PHILLIPS, W. H. MERRITT, WM. RHEM.

The following Ministering Brethren, are voluntary Agents.

P. W. DOWD, J. CULPEPPER, J. LOWELL, WM. BURCH, ELI PHILLIPS, WM. DOWD, NOAH RICHARDSON, T. D. ARMSTRONG, JOB GOODMAN, JOEL GULLEDGE, JOHN PURIFY, JOHN ARMSTRONG, WM. P. BIDDLE, JAMES DENNIS, ELI CARROLL, JAMES McDANIEL, all of whom offered one month's gratuitous service to the Convention, except Elder LOWELL, who gives six weeks.

*Ordered*, That 1000 copies of these Minutes be printed—Elder J. ARMSTRONG to superintend the printing and distribution.

The Corresponding Secretary was directed to write to the Cape-Fear Association, tendering our thanks for their donation, and soliciting their further co-operation, and giving them a full detail of our objects.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Elder J. ARMSTRONG, for his liberality in rendering his services gratuitously.

Adjourned till Monday morning 10 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder W. DOWD.

The stand was occupied during the day, by Elders DENNIS, WELCH, and McDANIEL.

### LORD'S DAY, APRIL 17th.

The service of the day opened with prayer by Elder CULPEPPER:—preaching by Elders WELCH, McDANIEL, and BIDDLE. Service concluded by exhortation, by Elder T. D. ARMSTRONG.

### MONDAY, APRIL 18th.

Met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder CULPEPPER—names of Delegates called over. Elder CULPEPPER handed in \$10 from Lawyer Spring Society, Anson County.

Committee on rules of decorum reported, report concurred in, and rules adopted.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer be bound in the sum of two thousand dollars, for the ensuing year.

Committee on Education reported—report adopted.

The committee appointed to enquire into the state, and collect the funds of, the Raleigh Baptist Missionary Society, were continued. P. W. DOWD, J. PURIFY, and W. R. HINTON, Committee.

The committee to enquire into the state, and collect the funds of, the Chowan Missionary Society, were continued. Brethren T. MEREDITH, C. W. SKINNER, and H. SKINNER, Committee.

*Resolved*, That the Convention accept the offer of Elder J. ARMSTRONG, to educate young men of the ministry, and that the Board be authorised to send such young men as they may approve, to him, or to some school, and to defray the expense, as far as the funds of the Convention will admit.

As we wish to be distinctly understood on the subject of Education, we agree to the following rules of admission:—The young preacher shall appear before the Board of the Convention, at a regular meeting, where he shall present a certificate of his regular standing and correct deportment in a regular Baptist Church in this State; and also, a written license from his Church to preach. The Board shall then proceed faithfully, to examine the brother, touching 1st, his christian experience; 2dly, his call to preach; 3dly, his views of doctrine; and if found corresponding with the holy word, they shall pass an order for his education, as their best judgement shall direct.

The Committee to whom was referred the report of the General Agent, reported—report received.

Adjourned for one hour.

Met according to adjournment:—Prayer by Elder GULLEDGE.

VOTED, That the report of the General Agent be appended to these Minutes.

The Committee on Missions reported, and the Convention ordered that the Board be empowered to employ Missionaries, to travel and preach, at the following rates of compensation: young men not less than ten dollars per month, and married men not more than twenty-five dollars per month—to be governed by circumstances.

*Resolved*, That this Convention express their entire satisfaction with the conduct of Elder SAM'L. WAIT, as their General Agent.

The Committee to examine the transactions of the Board and collect all the information in their power, reported—report received.

*Resolved*, That the Convention recommend the Christian Index, published in Philadelphia, and Religious Herald, published in Richmond, Va. to the patronage of the Baptists throughout the State.

*Resolved unanimously*, That this Convention request Elder SAM'L. WAIT to continue his General Agency, up to the next annual meeting in August 1832.

*Resolved*, That the General Agent receive one dollar a day as compensation for his services.

*Resolved*, That this Convention regard Sabbath Schools, and the instruction given in them, as happily calculated to give the children of our country more extensive acquaintance with the word of God, and that each member of this Convention recommend and encourage them in the section of country in which he resides.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer transmit the funds set apart to Foreign Missions, to the Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of the U. S. to be applied to that object.

*Resolved*, That Elder J. ARMSTRONG, be our Delegate to the Baptist General Convention of the U. S.

Elder CULPEPPER, and McDANIEL, our Delegates to the South Carolina Baptist State Convention.



Elders DENNIS, Wm. DOWD, and LARKIN TERRY, our Delegates to the Virginia Baptist General Association.

Adjourned to Friday before the first Sabbath in August, 1832.

Prayer by the President,

P. W. DOWD, *President.*

NATHANIEL G. SMITH, *Secretary pro tem.*

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD.

*TUESDAY, APRIL 19th.*

The Board met at the time appointed, and after prayer by Elder ELI PHILLIPS, proceeded to business.

Called the names of the Delegates forming the Board.

The meeting of the next Board to be at Cedar Creek Meeting House, in Cumberland county; to commence on Friday preceding the first Sunday in August next. Elder THOMAS D. ARMSTRONG to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder P. W. DOWD appointed to preach on Sabbath, on behalf of the Convention.

Elder NOAH RICHARDSON, Elder T. D. ARMSTRONG's alternate, and Elder W. P. BIDDLE, Elder DOWD's alternate on Sabbath.

The introductory sermon to be preached at 11 o'clock.

*Resolved*, That four Missionaries be employed, viz: Elder J. L. WARREN, for six weeks, to ride in the counties of Onslow and New Hanover, and that he receive for his services the sum of twenty dollars a month—Elder WILLIAM DOWD, to visit the destitute regions West of Salem, Stokes County, for two months, and to receive twenty dollars a month for his services—Elder ELI PHILLIPS, for six weeks, to receive twenty-five dollars a month for his services: his labours to be devoted to the destitute regions South West of Ashborough, Randolph County—Elder JAMES DENNIS, to ride in the Counties of Wake, Johnston and Sampson, for three months, and to receive ten dollars a month for his services. All of whom are required to make reports of services performed, &c. to the meeting of the Board in August next.

Elders P. W. DOWD, SAML. WAIT, and Bro. H. AUSTIN, appointed a Committee to draft Rules for the Government of the Missionaries of this body.

The General Agent to visit immediately the Chowan Association, and its bounds; then to visit the Societies formed last year, and occupy as much ground as practicable.

The Board adjourned. Prayer by Elder RICHARDSON.

P. W. DOWD, *President.*

N. G. SMITH, *Secretary.*

*H. Austin, Treasurer, in account with the North Carolina Baptist  
State Convention, Dr.*

To balance in hand last year,	\$ 238 37
Interest received on a loan of \$ 150,	8 50
Cash of Stephen Powell, by Jesse Davie,	2 50
Mary Joiner,	1 00
Newbern Missionary Society, by W. Sanders,	2 00
Collection at Newbern meeting of the Board,	19 54
Cash, Widow's mite, Newbern,	- 04
Miss Clara Tillman,	5 00
Miss Jane Tillman,	1 00
Neuse Miss. Society, by the hands of Bro. E. Clark, \$ 10 of } which are from the friends at Hancock's, per Eld. Biddle }	40 65
Mrs. Fulshire, Newbern,	1 00
Isaac Knox, by Jesse Davies,	1 00
S. B. Powell, by the same,	1 00
William Crenshaw, of Wake County, by P. W. Dowd,	3 50
Elizabeth Dunagen,	1 50
Friend in Newbern,	50
do. in Greenville,	50
	<hr/>
	\$ 327 10
<i>Contra, Cr.</i>	
By Cash paid for printing Minutes,	47 50
	<hr/>
Balance in hand,	\$ 279 60
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The above account, of Two Hundred and Seventy-nine Dollars and Sixty Cents, we find to be the correct balance in the hands of the Treasurer up to this date.

W. R. HINTON, *Chairman,*

*April 18th, 1831.*

*Receipts into the Treasury, from Auxiliary Societies, &c. at the Annual Meeting, 1831.*

SOCIETIES.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Education.	Total.
Raleigh Female,	8 00		4 00	12 00
Cross Roads,	5 00		5 00	10 00
Bethel Female,	8 00		2 00	10 00
Grassy Creek,		20 57½		20 57½
Cape Fear Association,	10 00			10 00
Jersey Settlement,	5 00	50	4 50	10 00
Pine Grove,	10 00			10 00
Lick Creek,	10 77½	2 00	2 00	14 77½
Liberty,	11 50		2 15	13 65
Sandy Field,	8 00		2 00	10 00
Antioch,	10 00			10 00
Cane Creek,	9 25	2 25		11 50
New Friendship,	8 30	1 00	1 00	19 30
Swift Creek,	21 05			21 05
Fort Barnwell,	10 00			10 00
South West,	43 00			43 00
Jarrat's Bay,	7 00		7 00	14 00
Tarborough,	35 00	5 00	20 00	60 00
Newbern,	10 00		10 00	20 00
Mount Pisgah,	11 00		1 00	12 00
Rocky Spring,	11 25		14 00	25 25
Tick Creek,	5 00	2 50	2 50	10 00
Mount Gilead,	10 00			10 00
Mays Chapel,	14 35			14 35
Fall Creek,	10 00			10 00
Friendship,	9 00		1 00	10 00
Bethlehem,	22 45		3 00	25 45
Cross Roads,	8 55		5 00	13 55
Pine Wood Congregation	8 75			8 75
Big Creek,	12 27			12 27
Dover Congregation,	1 25			1 25
Bell's Congregation,	9 47½			9 47½
Mary M'Neal,	1 00			1 00
N. & E. M'Neal,	50			50
Matthew Skeen,		1 00		1 00
James Brown,	1 00			1 00
Jesse Lovell,		1 00		1 00
Deep Creek,	22 75	9 50	8 00	40 25
Miltonsville,	6 00	16 00	3 00	25 00
Rocky River,	6 66⅔	6 66⅔	6 66⅔	20 00
Carledge Creek,	28 50	13 00	37 00	78 50
Cedar Creek,	10 75	21 50	10 75	43 00
Brown Creek,	20 00	10 00		30 00
Saron,	10 00	5 00	5 00	20 00
W. R. Hinton,	10 00		10 00	20 00
Charles McAllister,			5 00	5 00
Lawyer Spring,	10 00			10 00
Love's Creek,	5 00	2 50	2 50	10 00
Donation,		5		5
do.	2 34½			2 34½

\$495 73½ | \$120 4¼ | \$174 6⅔ | 791 79

Collections on Sabbath, - - - - - \$28 11½

\$819 90½

WILLIAM R. HINTON, *Chairman.*

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL AGENT.

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*Elder John Armstrong, Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina:*

MY DEAR BROTHER;

THE time has at length arrived when it becomes my duty to lay before you, for the use of the Convention, an account of my labours during the past year. In doing this, I deem it proper, for reasons which need not now be mentioned, to express myself with the utmost simplicity and plainness.

As I had many appointments previously made for preaching, I began early in April of last year to lay before the Churches the objects of the Convention.

Such, however, was the condition in which I was then placed, that it was not until the first of June following that I was able to make a final decision as to the course it would be my duty to pursue through the year.

After spending several weeks in some of the lower counties, it was judged best to visit others higher up in the State.

The result is, that 1 Society Auxiliary to the Convention, has been formed in Carteret, 1 in Pitt, 2 in Lenoir, 2 in Duplin, 3 in Orange, 7 in Chatham, 1 in Moore, 4 in Montgomery, 2 in Richmond, 7 in Anson, and 1 in Davidson—making in all 31.

Besides these societies, there are in the counties already named, and in Jones, Mecklinburg and Stokes, about 20 Churches and arms or branches of Churches, from which aid to a considerable extent will be obtained. Some of these last mentioned Churches are very small, and in regard to all of them, there were circumstances which made it inexpedient, at the time I visited them, to attempt the formation of regular societies. No reasonable doubt can be entertained but that the most of them, if not all, will form societies in the course of another year. During the past year I have preached 243 sermons. I have had the pleasure also, of baptising 9 persons, and of assisting in the administration of the Lord's Supper twice.

In October last, I attended the Sandy Creek Association. At the request of that body, I laid before them the objects of the Convention, and the plan that had been adopted to secure their promotion. The brethren were much pleased to hear of this Institution, and with great unanimity immediately passed the most friendly resolutions, expressive of their approbation and their entire willingness to render us assistance.

The instructions of the Board, to occupy the entire ground as I passed, have not been forgotten. Care has been taken that no Church should be passed unnoticed which was in the course I have taken.

More ground might have been gone over in the time that I have been employed, but it is believed that less in that case would have been accomplished.

To many, the Convention was an entirely new concern. It could not of course be expected that such persons would be prepared to act in a moment. Some little time would be requisite to enable them fully to understand the nature of the objects we have in view, and the plan by which we wish to promote them. They also wished for an opportunity, on many occasions, to present their objections and hear what might be said in reply to them.

Something too, has been done to encourage Sunday Schools. As there are many hundreds of children in the State, whose education is almost entirely neglected, who are spending the most of their Sabbaths in a very wicked manner, and sometimes wholly unrestrained by their parents, I have thought it was of immense consequence that some course should be pursued, adapted to give them suitable instruction. Occasionally in public, but more frequently in private conversations, this subject has been introduced. And although in most cases, the places for public worship, are not suitable to accommodate a school in cold weather, I was happy to find the most friendly sentiments were generally entertained towards Sabbath School instruction.

The circulation of Tracts, on all occasions when it was deemed expedient, has likewise been encouraged. In some instances the Churches are already engaged in this business. And wherever, so far as I could learn, the experiment has been made, and Tracts have been obtained and read, their great value is duly appreciated.

In regard to the amount obtained to promote the objects of the Convention, it is proper I should state that it has been much reduced by the general failure of crops last season. The drought continued so long, and extended so far, that every kind of business depending in any way upon the application of money, has been seriously affected.

But there is another thing which presents a much more serious difficulty.—I allude now to the very general misapprehension under which hundreds of our brethren in this State labour, in regard to the principal objects before us. A very large proportion of our Churches contain members who really believe that the friends of education wish to educate young men for the ministry who are yet in the gall of bitterness, and that the whole Missionary concern, together with Bible and Tract Societies, is only a mere speculation.

There is considerable reason to fear that some are to be found who continue to talk in this manner, knowing at the same time, that all the monies contributed for these purposes are faithfully and honestly accounted for; but with a much larger proportion it is, no doubt, an honest mistake. Impressions, such as I have now named, are much more general than I could have believed, except upon the most unquestionable testimony, one year ago.

These effects it is believed, have been chiefly produced by books, sermons and pamphlets of a certain character, which have been industriously circulated among the people.

Too many are ready to believe that whatever they see in print must be true. And in a community where but few can be found, who are well acquainted with Missionary matters, it is not at all surprising, that many should be deceived.

What I have now stated, as you will readily perceive, will account for much of the misapprehension of which I am now speaking.

But there is cause to fear that in some instances this difficulty is increased by what is heard from the pulpit.

It is a source of the deepest regret that some of our ministering brethren do not appear to entertain correct views of the objects of the Convention. Their sentiments, it is believed, are generally known to the people: And where this happens to be the case, it is not difficult to determine what the result will be.

It is worthy of remark, that where objections are made to the objects we are labouring to promote, they are, almost without exception, made, with the same decision, against several others also. Hence in nearly every instance, societies formed to assist in the education of young ministers, who have been previously approved by the Churches to which they belong, to aid in the spread of the Gospel and the distribution of Bibles, the circulation of Tracts, and the promotion of Sunday Schools, are viewed in just about the same light. These are all set aside together, and that too without any substitute. The objector would have nothing to do with these plans for doing good. But while he refuses these, he proposes no others by which we may hope to aid in carrying the Gospel to our fellow creatures.

There are, however, many others, whose sentiments, in regard to all the objects I have just named, are entirely different. These persons are ready to take an active part in the work proposed. Many of them have been long waiting for an opportunity of giving their aid in connexion with their brethren. There is among them a very becoming zeal in the cause. It would be difficult to give an adequate description of the joy that they appeared to feel on learning that an effort was about to be made to send the Gospel to the destitute in our own State; and also to aid in conveying the same treasure to distant heathen nations.

Nor should it be forgotten that there is in all our congregations, a very considerable number of persons, not attached to any Church, who are willing to give us assistance. Many of these are quite as liberal as our own brethren. The Constitution of the Convention they fully understand; so that all they do, is done knowing distinctly what our objects are, and what our plan to promote them.

And it is peculiarly gratifying to know, that although some of our brethren in the ministry, seem to labour under a mistake in regard to the nature and importance of the work before us, there are many others whose views are correct, and whose influence will be well employed.

These have rendered me much assistance. It has afforded them a heart-felt satisfaction to go with me from place to place, and do all in their power to help me on in my work.

Where it was not in my power to see the ministering brethren, known to be friendly to my business, I have endeavored to do what I could by writing. Something, I hope, has been accomplished in this way.

I have much cause for gratitude to God, that in every place I have visited I have met with a most cordial welcome. Whatever the Church or other friends might think of my object, it is due to them that I state the fact, that they always gave me a very kind reception.

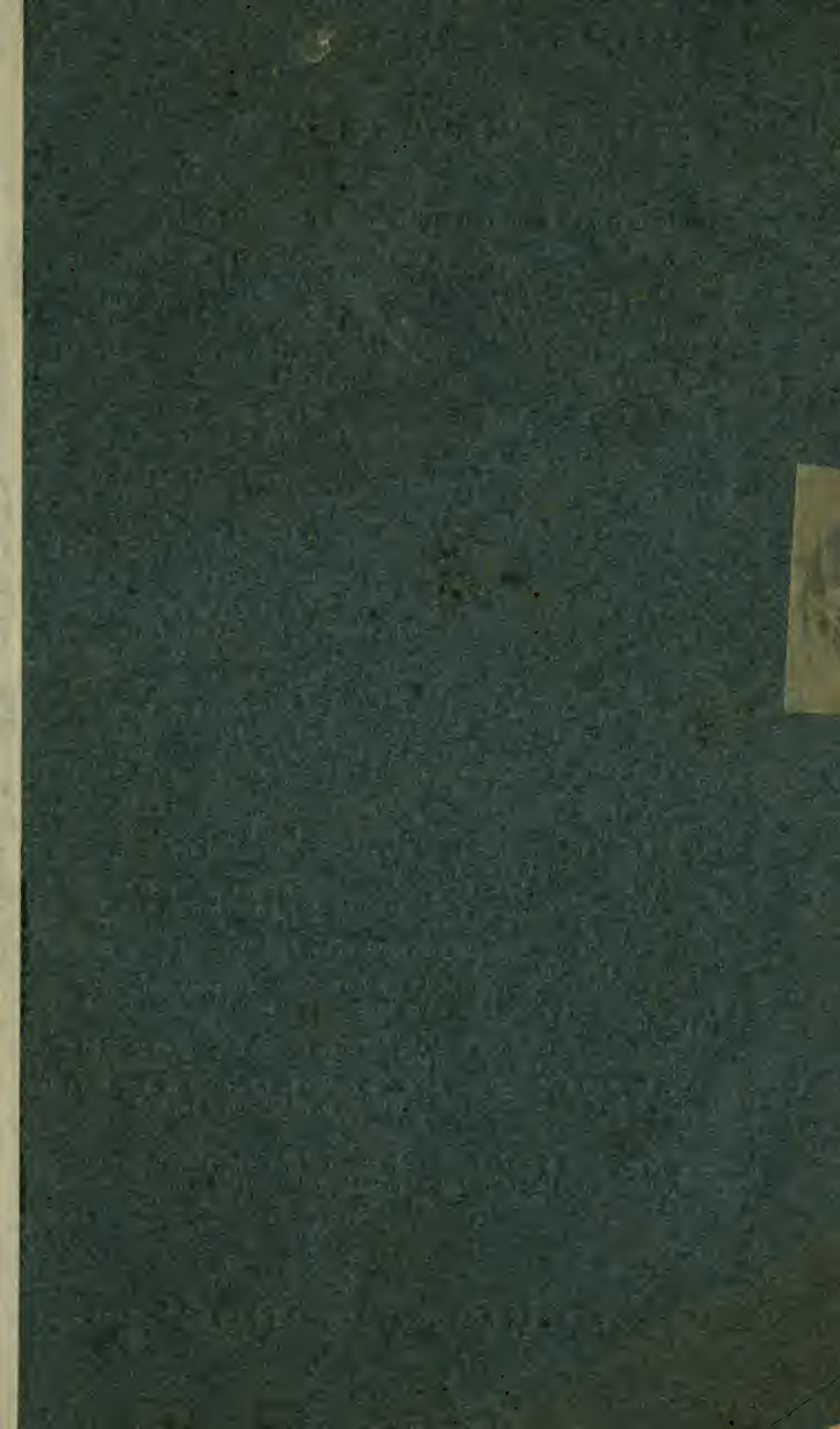
This brief and simple statement comprises the principal facts which properly belong to my report.

The state of the Baptist Churches in North Carolina, as you have long known, is far from being the most prosperous. Something concerning the nature of the difficulties that attend them you already see. But instead of making any attempt to enumerate these difficulties and enlarge upon them, I have thought it would be more profitable to inquire what we can do to repair the waste places of Zion.

This appears to me, after all, to be the main point. And in reply I would say, send them, as soon as practicable, not only the Gospel, but also correct information on all the efforts of the present day, to become the instruments of saving poor sinners. Nothing is wanting, in order to remove the prejudices of our brethren, where they now exist, but a simple detail of facts.

Commending the interests of the Convention to the protection and blessing of Almighty God, I remain your Friend and Brother,

SAMUEL WAIT, *General Agent.*



# CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Institution shall be called the *Board of Christian Cooperation of North America*.

ART. 2. The primary objects of this Convention shall be, the organization of young men called to labor in the Ministry, and approved of by the Churches to which they respectively belong; the establishment of Missions, and, in the limits of the Bible, and in co-operation with the Baptist, Methodist, and other Churches of the United States, in the promotion of Missions in general.

ART. 3. The funds derived in these objects shall be kept distinct from each other, and prudently appropriated according to the specific intentions of contributors.

ART. 4. This Institution shall be composed of men, individuals, and Delegates from such Associations, Churches, and Societies, as shall make adequate contributions to its funds.

ART. 5. Every Association, Church, Society, or individual, shall be entitled to send to the Convention, one Delegate, who shall be a member of the Baptist Church, for every ten dollars paid into the Treasury.

ART. 6. The officers of this Convention, to be elected annually, shall be, a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, &c. with eighteen others, shall constitute a Board of Directors; five of whom shall form a quorum.

ART. 7. It shall be the duty of the President, to preside at all meetings of the Convention, and Board, that of the Vice-Presidents, in case of his absence, according to seniority. The Corresponding Secretary shall be required to correspond with Societies or individuals, so far as the interests of the Convention shall require; and the Recording Secretary shall preserve a faithful record of the proceedings of the body. The Treasurer shall hold the funds of the Convention, to be subject to the order of the Board; shall give security for the faithful discharge of his duty, and shall make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published with the Minutes.

ART. 8. The Board of Directors shall meet semi-annually, at such place as it shall from time to time designate; when they shall adopt such measures as shall best tend to carry into effect the different objects of the Convention, subject to the provisions of the Constitution.

ART. 9. There shall be no separate number of Agents, subject to the direction of the Convention, or its Board, whose duty shall be to visit Associations and Churches, &c. and endeavor to secure their co-operation with this Institution, conformably with the provisions of the Constitution; but in no case to collect or transmit funds.\*

ART. 10. The Convention shall hold its meetings annually, commencing Friday preceding the first Lord's day in August, at such place as it shall from time to time direct.

ART. 11. The Convention shall require of its Board, a specific report of all their proceedings, at each annual meeting.

ART. 12. Any alteration may be made in this Constitution at any annual meeting, with the concurrence of two-thirds of its members present.

\* This provision is made for the sole object of obviating objections that are often made against the collection of funds by Missionary Agents.